

HOUSE BILL 2074

By Griffey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2,
relative to elections.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 9, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) This section applies to the 2024 elections and all elections thereafter.

(b) Beginning with the 2024 election cycle and notwithstanding another law to the contrary, each county election commission shall use ballot-marking devices or hand-marked ballots and tabulate the votes using an electronic tabulator or by a hand count.

(c) If a county election commission cannot acquire the necessary equipment to implement this section before the 2024 elections, the county election commission may request the secretary of state for an extension to 2026 for compliance.

(d) This state shall share in at least fifty percent (50%) of the cost of a county election commission complying with this section, subject to appropriations.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-7-104, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

() A poll watcher shall not be prevented from observing and documenting the counting and processing of ballots from a normal unaided visual length of sight, which is a distance of three (3) feet or less.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-5-207, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

() The coordinator of elections shall prescribe security features that must be used on paper ballots. The security features may include watermarks, fluorescence,

digital holograms, or a unique ballot identifier that ensures no ballot can be duplicated or counted more than once. The coordinator of elections may change the ballot security features from election to election. It is the intent of the general assembly that the coordinator of elections use all reasonable security features to ensure the security of the election.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.